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Closing the Gap between Skipped-generation Households and Available Resources and Services

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Closing the Gap for Skipped-Generation Households



Closing the Gap for Skipped- Generation Households



1 in 6

Americans live in
a multigenerational
household

Closing the Gap for Skipped-Generation Households



7.8 MIL

Children live in grandfamilies,
where grandparents or other
relatives are the householders

Closing the Gap for Skipped-Generation Households

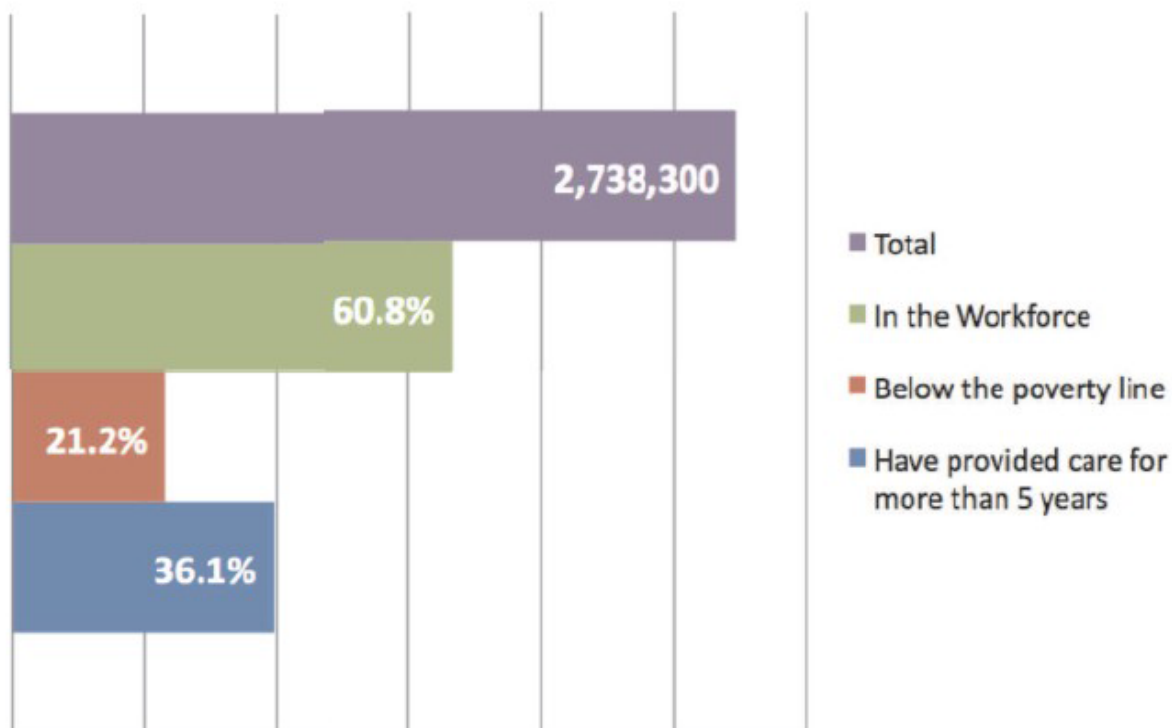


2.7 MIL

Grandparents are responsible for
most of the basic needs
of children living with them

Closing the Gap for Skipped-Generation Households

Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren



Source: The State of America's Children Handbook (2012). Children's Defense Fund. Data Source is U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Tables B10050, B10051, B10058, B10059. Additional calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Closing the Gap for Skipped-Generation Households



\$6.5 BIL

Amount grandparents and other relatives
save taxpayers each year by raising children
and keeping them out of foster care

Common Challenges for GRG

- grandparent health, mental health, and managed stress levels;
- parenting skills and social support;
- awareness of and access to financial services and public resources;
- the effect of few accessible resources and lack of social supports
- legal recognition and custody issues.

Service Needs for Kinship Caregivers

To maintain the children safely in the homes of kinship caregivers, many studies have identified the need to provide services to the caregivers. These needs have centered on the needs for financial resources, child care, legal services, and additional needs to support the family.

Many Grandparents report they are unaware of available services, or of how these may be accessed.

Social Workers, Gerontologists and Educators

Professionals widen their focus to consider multiple issues:

- legal, financial, child and adolescent development, parenting skills, and adult stress and coping,
- network with other professionals as further needs become apparent which the professional cannot meet.

Solutions to Grand-family problems...

...must come from a variety of sources:

social support,
education,
therapy,
social services, and
public policies.

Federal and State Policy



Legislative efforts
addressing the needs of
“grandfamilies” involved
with the child welfare
system.

The Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

The most significant child welfare legislation in recent years is the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Children's Defense Fund & Child Trends, 2012). Among its many provisions, this federal law does a number of things specifically for grandfamilies:

- ♣ requires states to identify and notify relatives when children enter foster care.
- ♣ gives states the option to use funds through Federal Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to finance Guardianship Assistance Programs (GAPs) that enable children in the care of relatives (who are licensed foster parents) to exit foster care into permanent homes. As of May 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau has approved 31 states to implement GAPs.
- ♣ requires child welfare agencies to make reasonable efforts to place siblings together, be it in foster care, guardianships, or adoptive placements. Siblings placed in the same home as a child eligible for federal guardianship payments may also receive support even if they are not otherwise eligible.
- ♣ authorizes "Family Connection" grants to establish **kinship navigator programs** that link relative caregivers to a broad range of services and supports for them and the children they raise. These grants also fund "family finding" efforts and other programs that benefit grandfamilies.
- ♣ gives states the option to waive non-safety-related foster care licensing standards for relatives.

HB 279, KINSHIP AFFIDAVIT & POWER OF ATTORNEY Provisions

Representative Cheryl Grossman, sponsor

Ohio HB 279 supports extended family responsibility for the raising of Ohio's children. According to the 2010 Census, over 91,000 children are being raised by their grandparents – many more by other relatives and kin; less than 20% have any type of legal custody, making it difficult to access needed services. HB 279

establishes two legal mechanisms to assist caregivers to access educational and medical services for children in their residential care, as an alternative to intrusive children services intervention or expensive legal processes.

HB 130, limited to Grandparents as caregivers, became effective in July 2004. The only concern experienced has been that it is limited to Grandparents. HB 279 merely expands the HB 130 law to allow for other caregivers to utilize this effective law.

- The Power of Attorney provides legal documentation for the caregiver of a parents' choice, in consensual arrangements, when the custodial parent(s) are temporarily unable to care for their child.
- The Caretaker Affidavit provides legal documentation for relative caregivers, when location of the birth parent is unknown.

Signed into law by Gov. John Kasich – December 20, 2012

“Kinship Navigator” Programs



Provide relative caregivers with a point of entry for learning about services they might need in many areas, including health, financial assistance, legal assistance, and housing.



**Kinship
Care**

<http://www.kinshipohio.org>

